

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected. Claim 5 is objected to but would be allowable if placed into independent form. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 5, thereby making the claim allowable. Claim 5 is cancelled. Thus, Applicants submit that all of claims 1-4 and 6-7 should be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. (US 6,695,831) in view of Cohen et al. (US 6,162,201). This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable dependent claim 5.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. (US 6,695,831) in view of Cohen et al. (US 6,162,201), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Martin (US 5,188,593). This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 from which this claim depends.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. (US 6,695,831) in view of Cohen et al. (US 6,162,201), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Tsukada (US 5,817,067). This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 from which these claims depend.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukada et al. (US 6,695,831) in view of Cohen et al. (US 6,162,201), as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of England (US 1,486,957). This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 from which this claim depends.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 is now presented as amended independent claim 1, from which it depended.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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